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COMMUNICATIONS INTERFACE AND CONFLICT AVOIDANCE
USING A SOFTWARE SIMULATION OF A UART

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5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A computer system includes a software UART
emulation and uses standard operating system protocols
to minimized the chance of I/O conflicts between a
serial device having a UART and a non-standard serial
15 device which communicates through the UART emulation.
A COM driver which can replace a standard COM driver in
an operating environment such as provided by Microsoft
WINDOWSTM contains the UART emulation. The COM driver
also sets the device address of the non-standard device
20 on an ISA bus by determining the device addresses of
COM port I/O slots used by UARTs, sending a
predetermined pattern on the ISA bus to indicate a
device address is to come, and then sending a value
indicating a device address not used by the UARTs. The
25 pattern has a length sufficient to make inadvertent
generation of the pattern unlikely. The non-standard
device recognizes the predetermined pattern and selects
a device address according to the value from the COM
driver.

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